Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. **(Currently amended)** A method, comprising:

receiving search criteria ~~entered by a user via~~ from a graphical user interface generated by a computing device, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;

passing the received search criteria to a Virtual Business Component (VBC), the VBC representing a database as a business object;

invoking a search execution business service using the VBC;

searching the database for data records matching the search criteria using the search execution business service;

generating search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria; and

caching the search results to maintain persistency of the search results.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category.

3. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising refining the search results based on at least one result refining keyword from the graphical user interface. ~~entered by the user.~~

4. Canceled.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

passing the received search criteria from the Virtual Business Component to the search execution business service.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein

the search execution business service remains in existence until a user session is terminated.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein caching the search results further comprises:

caching the search results in the search execution business service to maintain persistency of the search results.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein caching the search results further comprises:

caching the search results in the search execution business service until termination of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user session.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending the search results to a frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface.

10. **(Currently amended)** A method, comprising:

receiving a search category and a search keyword ~~entered by a user via~~ from a graphical user interface generated by a computing device;

passing the received search category and the search keyword to a Virtual Business Component (VBC), the VBC representing a database as a business object;

invoking a search execution business service using the VBC;

searching the database for data records matching the search category and the search keyword using the search execution business service;

generating search results comprising of the data records matching the search category and the search keyword; and

caching the search results to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of a session.

11. Canceled.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
passing the received search category and the search keyword from the Virtual Business Component to the search execution business service.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein
the search execution business service remains in existence until a user session is terminated.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein caching the search results further comprises:
caching the search results in the search execution business service to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of a session.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
sending the search results to a frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface.

16. (Previously presented) A system, comprising:
a user interface generated by a computing device to receive search criteria entered by a user, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;
a Virtual Business Component (VBC) to receive the search criteria from the user interface and to represent a database as a business object;
a business service to receive the search criteria from the Virtual Business Component, to perform a search in the database for data records matching the search criteria, to generate search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria, and to cache the search results to maintain persistency of the search results, wherein the business service is invoked by the VBC.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the search criteria comprises at least one search category.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the business service refines the search results based on at least one result refining keyword entered by the user.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the business service caches the search results until termination of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user session.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the business service sends the search results to the user interface so that the search results can be listed on the user interface.

21. (Previously presented) A system, comprising:

a user interface generated by a computing device to receive search criteria entered by a user, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;

a Virtual Business Component (VBC) to receive the search criteria from the user interface and to represent a database as a business object;

a business service to receive the search criteria from the Virtual Business Component, to perform a search in the database for data records matching the search criteria, and to cache search results to maintain persistency of the search results, wherein the business service is invoked by the VBC.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the search criteria comprises at least one search category.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the business service performs a second search based on at least one result refining keyword entered by the user.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

a search adapter to adapt to a selected search engine and to generate search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria, wherein

the business service caches the search results generated by the search adapter to maintain persistency of the search results.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the business service caches the search results until termination of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user session.

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the business service sends the search results to a search frame so that the search results can be listed on the user interface.

27. **(Currently amended)** A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving search criteria ~~entered by a user via~~ from a graphical user interface generated by a computing device, wherein the search criteria includes at least one search keyword;

passing the received search criteria to a Virtual Business Component (VBC), the VBC representing a database as a business object;

invoking a search execution business service using the VBC;

searching the database for data records matching the search criteria using the search execution business service;

generating search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria; and

caching the search results to maintain persistency of the search results.

28. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category and at least one search keyword.

29. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein caching the search results further comprises:

caching the search results in the search execution business service until termination of a user session to maintain persistency of the search results until termination of the user session.

30. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising:
sending the search results to a search frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface.

31. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising refining the search results based on at least one result refining keyword entered by the user.

32. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein:
the VBC is configured to provide an abstraction layer, wherein the abstraction layer provides wrapping over a plurality of databases.

33. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein:
the search execution business service is independent of the database, and has access to a plurality of databases.

34. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein:
the search execution business service is independent of the database, and has access to a plurality of databases via a search adapter.

35. **(New)** The method of claim 10, wherein:
the VBC is configured to provide an abstraction layer, wherein the abstraction layer provides wrapping over a plurality of databases, and
the search execution business service is independent of the database, and has access to a plurality of databases via a search adapter.

36. **(New)** The system of claim 16, wherein:
the VBC is configured to provide an abstraction layer for communicating with a plurality of databases.

37. **(New)** The system of claim 16, wherein:
the business service is independent of the database, and has access to a plurality of databases via a search adapter.

38. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein:
the VBC is configured to provide an abstraction layer for communicating with a plurality of databases.

39. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein:
the business service is independent of the database, and has access to a plurality of databases via a search adapter.

40. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein:
the VBC is configured to provide an abstraction layer for communicating with a plurality of databases.

41. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein:
the search execution business service is independent of the database, and has access to a plurality of databases via a search adapter.